

## BEFORE THE SOUTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

In the Matter of the Revocation	)	
	)	
or Suspension of the Educators	)	<b>ORDER OF SUSPENSION</b>
	)	<b>(BREACH OF CONTRACT)</b>
Certificate of Margaret H. Beaudrie	)	
	)	
Certificate # 143297	)	

### SUMMARY OF THE CASE

The South Carolina State Board of Education (State Board) considered this matter on May 13, 2003. On February 28, 2003, the State Department of Education (Department) sent Ms. Margaret H. Beaudrie a notice of her right to a due process hearing regarding the possible suspension of her South Carolina educators certificate (certificate) by certified mail, return receipt requested, delivery restricted to addressee. Ms. Beaudrie received the notice, as evidenced by the signed postal receipt. Ms. Beaudrie did not request a hearing during the period allowed by law, and is now in default. After considering the evidence presented, which was undisputed by Ms. Beaudrie, the State Board voted to suspend Ms. Beaudrie's certificate for one year.

### FINDINGS OF FACT

Ms. Beaudrie holds a valid certificate, and has over twenty-one years of teaching experience. She was under contract with York County School District One (District) for the 2002-2003 school year, as a Language Arts teacher at Johnson Middle School. On December 20, 2002, the District Superintendent received a letter of resignation from Ms. Beaudrie, effective January 6, 2003. In her letter Ms. Beaudrie indicated she was resigning to take another teaching position closer to her new home in Weddington, North Carolina. She indicated she planned to stay with the District until the end of the summer, but "as a result of several interesting coincidences," she was offered a job at Weddington Middle School, effective January 6, 2003. The District wrote Ms. Beaudrie to tell her

that, according to District policy, the request would not be accepted until a suitable replacement was found, and until the District Board approved. Ms. Beaudrie did not return to work on January 13, 2003, nor did she communicate further with the District.

On January 14, 2003, the District Board voted to accept Ms. Beaudrie's resignation if a suitable replacement could be found. The District was unable to hire a suitable replacement, and the District Board requested that the State Board suspend Ms. Beaudrie's teaching certificate.

### **CONCLUSIONS OF LAW**

The State Board may suspend the certificate of any person for breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-530 (1990). Unprofessional conduct includes breach of contract. S.C. Code Ann. § 59-25-160 (1990); 24 S.C. Code Regs. 43-58 (1992). The State Board finds that there is conclusive evidence supporting its decision to suspend Ms. Beaudrie's certificate # 143297 for a period of one year from May 13, 2003 through May 12, 2004, on the ground of unprofessional conduct due to breach of contract. At the end of the suspension period if she wants her certificate reinstated, Ms. Beaudrie may make a written request for reinstatement to the Office of Teacher Education and Certification of the Department.

South Carolina State Board of Education

By: /S/ Greg Killian

Greg Killian

Chair

Columbia, South Carolina

May 13, 2003